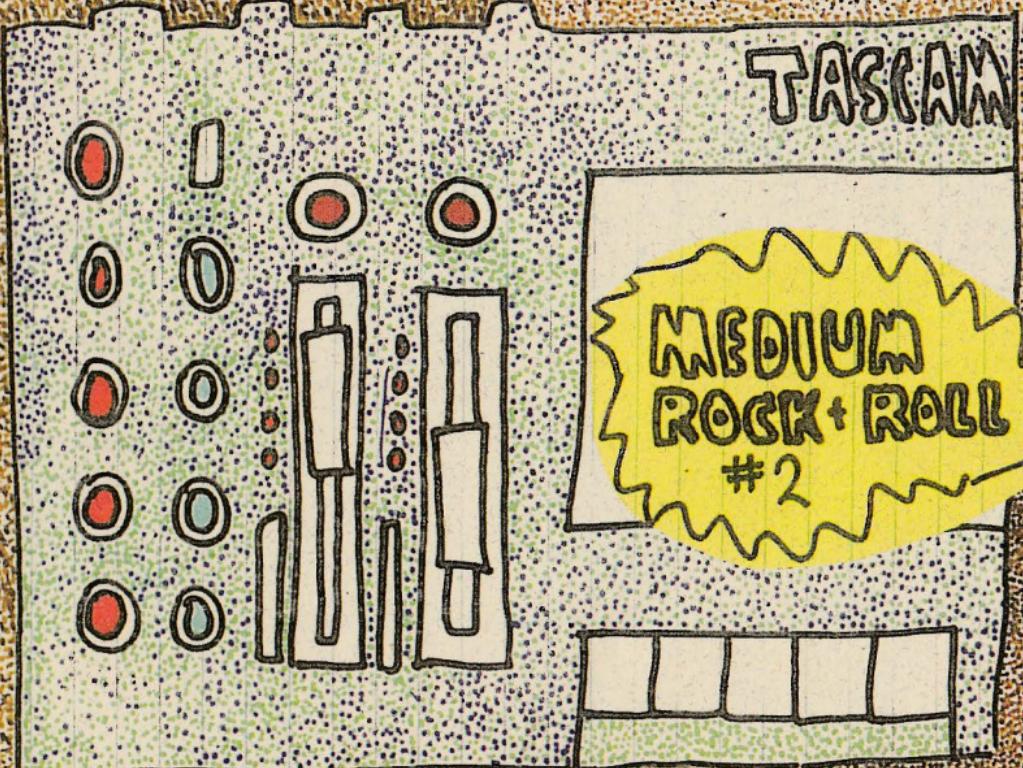


TASCAM

MEDIUM
ROCK + ROLL

#2



REFLECTIONS TAPEZ

PRESENTS...

MEDIUM

ROCK + ROLL

A QUARTERLY PRINT

ZINE! IT'S FREE! JUST
EMAIL REFLECTIONS

#1 - WE FANCY, COMING
DIV@GMAIL.COM!

#2 - VIPER, MEH, BUD TAPES.
DIV.

FRIENDS!!!

I'M WRITING THIS ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 7TH, 2020. FOUR YEARS AGO I WAS HEADED TO PORTLAND TO START THE FIRST (AND ONLY) BOX FAN WEST COAST TOUR. IN MANY [REDACTED] WAYS THAT TRIP, DESPITE THE POLITICAL DISASTER UNFOLDING, WAS THE HIGH-WATER MARK OF MY LIFE (SO FAR). EVERYWHERE WE WENT WE WERE WELCOMED BY FRIENDS OLD + NEW. MANY FOLKS TOOK BREAKS FROM STREET ACTIONS TO BE WITH COMMUNITY + SHARE IN MAGICAL CULTURAL EXPERIENCES IN OUR SECRET WORLD. SINCE THEN MY BAND ENDED, RELATIONSHIP ENDED, I MOVED OUT OF MY HOUSE, + MY DREAM (JOSH'S RESTAURANT) HAPPENED + THEN FELL APART. THIS YEAR I LOST MY MOM + SEVERAL BELOVED FRIENDS + SAW MY TOWN WOUNDED BY ILLNESS + JOB LOSS. SO WHY DOES TODAY FEEL A LITTLE BETTER?

- JOSH

(2)

ORIGINALLY
FROM ARIZONA,
HYPERPOP
BAND



IS NOW BASED IN
MINNEAPOLIS. BAND
LEADER AARON PONZO

IS PERHAPS MY FAVORITE SONGWRITER IN D.I.Y.
PREVIOUSLY FORMULATED AS A ROCK BAND IN THE STYLE
OF SUPERCHUNK, AARON'S RECENT WORK HAS EMPLOYED
DRUM MACHINES + SYNTHS ALONG w/ HOTSHOT GUITAR
PLAYING + INDIEPOP VOX. THE NEW "FIELD OF DREAMS",
RELEASED w/ EXCELLENT PNW LABEL YOUTH RIOT, COVERS
TONS OF GROUND OVER JUST 8 SONGS (IN 10 MINUTES!).
AFTER A POPPY INSTRUMENTAL, WE GET FULL-ON ROCKERS
("THE IOWA 80", "NO ME", + "HAPPY NEW YEAR") + A FEW
ACOUSTIC SOLO-ish SONGS ("MINNEHAHA FALLS, MN" + "MEM-
ORIAL PARK, NE") THAT RECALL CAPSTAN SHAFT'S OR LETTERS
TO THE MOON. IT'S A VERY SPECIAL SET OF SONGS, + WE
TALKED ABOUT IT + THE BAND + D.I.Y. GENERALLY.

3

MRR: HOW DID U DISCOVER D.I.Y.? WHAT WAS YR EARLY EXPERIENCE IN THAT WORLD?

AARON: MAINLY THRU MY OLDER BROTHER. HE PLAKED IN BANDS + I WOULD GO TO SEE THEM WHEN I WAS 11-13, MOSTLY AT THE NILE UNDERGROUND IN MESA, AZ. IT WASN'T REALLY UNTIL I WENT TO SEE HIM PLAY AT THE TRUNK SPACE IN PHOENIX. WHEN I WAS 13 THAT I WAS LIKE "OH WOW I CAN DO THIS TOO"! A FEW MONTHS LATER I WOULD FORM MY OWN BAND SABA-DATS + PLAYED OUR FIRST SHOW AT TRUNK SPACE WHEN I WAS 14. AFTER THAT I WENT TO AS MANY SHOWS AS I COULD. FORTUNATELY BACK THEN PHOENIX + TEMPE HAD A LOT OF ALL-AGES SHOWS. I TOOK MORE OF A SHINING TO D.I.Y. THAN MY BROTHER, WHOSE BANDS STARTED DOING THE BOOKING AGENT THINGS + TAKING THEMSELVES WAY SERIOUSLY.

MRR: WAS IT A YOUNG GROUP OF FOLKS, OR A MIX OF AGES?

IT WAS DEFINITELY A MIX. U HAD THE COLLEGE HOUSE SHOW SCENE AROUND ASU IN TEMPE THAT WAS LIKE 17-23-YR-OLDS. THEN ^(A) TRUNK SPACE U HAD KIDS AS YOUNG AS 12 PERFORMING. ALSO FUNNYWORLD TOO ATTRACTED PPL OF ANY AGE.

MRR: WHAT KINDA MUSIC WERE/ARE U INSPIRED BY?² (4)

AARON: BACK THEN IT WAS A LOT OF SONIC YOUTH + THEN A LOT OF WEIRD STUFF COMING OUT OF PHOENIX. TREASURE MAMMAL, PLAYBOY MANGABY, JJ CNV, FATHERS DAY, A LOT OF STUFF THAT WAS LYRICALLY VERY SILLY. FOLKS CALLED IT THE "FUN PUNK" SCENE. ALSO A LOT OF GARAGE ROCK, I WAS V INTO WAVVES + BURGER RECORDS (AARON SAYS "FUCK THEM"). A LOT SHIFTED LATER INTO HIGH SCHOOL + GOT INTO PAVEMENT + BUILT TO SPILL. I GOT HEAVILY INTO PLAN-IT-X ("FUCK THEM:") WHEN DOGBRETH RELEASED "SENTIMENTAL HEALTH" WITH THEM. NOW I'M INSPIRED BV A LOT OF NEWER GUITAR MUSIC (TONY MOLINA, ALIEN BOY, DOGBRETH, COOL AMERICAN + ALSO REPLACEMENTS/ WESTERBERG). ALSO KATY DAVIDSON OF DEAR NORA, I FEEL LIKE EVERY SONG THEY WRITE IS LIMITLESS. I MAINLY JUST WANT TO RECREATE "BLESS x 4" BY PERFUME-Y THO IF I'M BEING HONEST.

MRR: AT WHAT POINT DID U BECOME INTERESTED IN TRAVELING/TOURING/PLAYING OUT OF TOWN?

(S)

DEF WHEN I SAW OTHER PHOENIX BANDS LIKE DOGBREATH, DINERS + RED TANK! GOING EVERYWHERE + PLAYING HOUSE SHOWS + ALL-AGES SPACES I WAS LIKE "THAT'S WHAT I WANNA DO. ALSO MEETING + BOOKING + PLAYING w/ TOURING FOLKS IN PHOENIX. HEARING THEM TALK ABOUT THEIR SCENES + COOL SPOTS BACK HOME MADE ME WANNA PLAY THOSE SPOTS. FOR THE SENSE OF COMMUNITY + MEETING NEW PEOPLE. I WOULD TRY + CONVINCE MY PARENTS TO LET ME DO A SMALL TOUR, + FINALLY LET ME DO A SMALL ONE TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. WE PLAYED IN LA, SANTA ANA + SD, THEN A FEW MONTHS LATER I TURNED 18, BOUGHT A VAN, + TRIED TO TOUR AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE UNTIL NOW I GUESS LOL.

TOWN'S
MRR: ANYTHING YOU LEARNED FROM OTHER [REDACTED] D.I.Y. COMMUNITIES + THEN MADE PART OF YOUR OWN SCENE?

AARON: I GUESS TRYING TO MAKE EVERY SHOW "NOT AFLOAT". HAVING SLIDING-SCALE DONATION, MAKING SHOWS AS SAFE + FUN AS THEY CAN BE. SOMETIMES I LEARNED MORE ABOUT WHAT NOT TO DO LOL. I STARTED TRYING TO MAKE SURE SHOWS END ASAP, + CHANGED OVER TIME MINIMAL. I KNOW HOW NICE IT CAN BE TO BE ON TOUR + HAVE A SICK SHOW THAT'S ALSO OVER BY 10:30.

MRR: WHAT TOWNS HAD SURPRISINGLY AWESOME D.I.Y. SCENES?

AARON: I WILL SAY, ON THE FIRST WEST COAST TOUR, I TRIED TO AVOID OLYMPIA CAUSE EVERYONE I TALKED TO TOLD ME D.I.Y. SUCKED + WAS BAD. WE ENDED UP DOING AN EARLY ALL-AGES SHOW @ LE VOYEUR + IT WAS FINE. BUT THEN THE NEXT TIME 6 MONTHS LATER IT WAS SO SICK. US, PANDRATIC, BLOOD ORPHANS + SPECIAL MOVES, DEFINITELY A FAVORITE OF THAT TOUR. CLOSET GOTH PLAYED ODESSA, TEXAS TWICE LAST SUMMER + THEY'RE SOME OF THE MOST SUPPORTIVE, NICEST FOLKS IN THE WORLD.

AARON: THEY (ODESSA KIDS) GOT US A SHOW W/ 4 DAYS NOTICE + LOVED US SO MUCH THEY ASKED US TO COME BACK FOR THEIR VENUE'S 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY A MONTH LATER. S/O TO THE CACTUS HOUSE CREW: RENO, NV WAS A SURPRISE TOO. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT, BUT WHEN WE GOT THERE WE COULD SEE HOW NICE THE COMMUNITY + PEOPLE WERE + THEY WERE TRYING TO MAKE IT THE BEST IT COULD BE. ALSO HOLLAND PROJECT IS ONE OF THE BEST ALL-AGES SPACES IN THE WORLD.

MRR: HOW'D U GET IN TOUCH W/ YOUTH RIOT RECORDS?

AARON: I JUST TWEETED "ANYBODY KNOW A GOOD LABEL THAT MIGHT WANNA PUT THIS OUT" + THE BAND FUNNY FACE HOUSE SUGGESTED THEM. I DID, + THEY ENDED UP BEING ON BOARD. THEY'RE SUCH A GREAT CREW. ME + BAILEY FROM YR WENT TO SEE DAVE MATTHEWS' HOUSE IN SEATTLE A FEW YEARS BACK, SO, GREAT CREW!

MRR: HOW WOULD U DESCRIBE THE YIPEE' SOUND AT THIS POINT?

AARON: WELL, FOR FIELD OF DREAMS IT'S BEEN TRYING NEW THINGS + FOCUSING ON CRAFTING A GOOD SONG. I STARTED PLAYING A LOT MORE SOLO SHOWS ON GUITAR. IT'S LO-FI + THERE'S STILL SOME ROCK GUITAR, BUT IT'S MOSTLY MELLOWER + SOME KEYBOARD SONGS. I USED CASSETTE RECORDING FOR THE FIRST TIME. I THINK THE NEXT THING I WANNA DO IS TAKE WHAT I LEARNED ABOUT SONGWRITING + MAKE A BIG GUITAR ROCK ALBUM.

MRR: U RECENTLY RELOCATED TO MINNEAPOLIS. HOW'S IT GOING?

AARON: YEAH, BEEN HERE ABOUT 4 MONTHS. IT'S HARD TO GET A HANDLE ON IT w/ THE PANDEMIC. IT'S BEEN COOL: BEEN RIDING MY BIKE A LOT + GETTING LOTS OF VEGAN FOOD. I'VE BEEN MORE OUTDOORSY THAN I WAS IN ARIZONA. CAN'T WAIT TILL 2037 OR SO, SO I CAN FULLY EXPERIENCE THIS TOWN.

MEH

IS A LO-FI INDIE ROCK BAND FROM THE BAY AREA WHO RECENTLY ISSUED THEIR 2ND FULL-LENGTH "BIG SOFT", A WONDERFULLY UNDERRATED COLLECTION OF HOME-RECORDED POP SONGS. MOST OF THESE PUNK ARE ALSO IN NOPES, A NOISE ROCK COMBO w/ A SERIOUS MELODIC STREAK, + YUPS, A HEAVILY-GIMMICKED POWERPOP/NWI-STYLE FREE-PUNK PROJECT. I'VE BEEN A BIG FAN OF ALEX + ERIS' SONGS, ESPECIALLY IN MEH, + WAS BLESSED TO GET TO HELP RELEASE THE "FIRSTS" EP + "RED KITE CRANE", WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN MY FAVORITE ALBUM OF 2019. "BIG SOFT" IS STILL REMINISCENT OF GBV OR A LO-FI TEENAGE FANCLUB, PERHAPS A BIT LESS NOISY THAN THEIR PREVIOUS STUFF. ERIS' HOT GUITAR LICKS + ALEX's WARM VOCALS REMAIN OUTSTANDING. WE SPOKE w/ ALEX VIA TEXT MESSAGE. ENJOY!

MRR: HOW DID MEH GET STARTED?

ALEX: IT STARTED AS A GBV WORSHIP PROJECT/OUTLET FOR ME + ERIS. SOMETHING FOR US TO JAM ON + DO AT OUR LEISURE WHENEVER WE NEEDED A BREAK FROM THE NOISE ROCK STUFF WE DO IN NOPES.

MRR: WHY HAVE MULTIPLE BAND NAMES/PROJECTS AMONG THE SAME GROUP OF FOLKS RATHER THAN FOLD THEM ALL INTO ONE THING?

ALEX: WE LIKED THE IDEA OF HAVING MULTIPLE SIDE PROJECTS LIKE GBV USED TO DO. I WAS A FAN OF EASTER EGGS ON DVDs AS A KID, SO I THINK THESE ARE SIMILAR. TBH, LOOKING BACK, IT PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN MAYBE BETTER TO JUST LUMP THEM INTO ONE.

MRR: DO U INTENTIONALLY WRITE FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS @ SPECIFIC TIMES, OR WRITE FIRST THEN DECIDE WHAT IT'LL BE FOR?

ALEX: A BIT OF BOTH. SOMETIMES IT STARTS W/ AN IDEA. OTHER TIMES IT'S JUST MESSING AROUND + CATEGORIZE ACCORDINGLY.

MRR: HOW'D U FIND D.I.Y.?

ALEX: ERIS IS ONE OF MY FIRST FRIENDS I HUNG OUT WITH OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL. WE MET ON MYSPACE (A TALE AS OLD AS TOM) AFTER I DISCOVERED ERIS' BAND REALITY REJECTS. WE SHARED A LOVE OF FUN GILMAN ST PUNK + THE DESCENDENTS + DECIDED TO MEET. WE QUICKLY MADE SOME BANDS TOGETHER, DISCOVERED SOME LIKE-MINDED BANDS IN THE AREA + MADE A LITTLE CREW. WE'D BEG PIZZA SHOP OWNERS + RANDOM KIDS WE KNEW TO LET US USE THEIR PLACE FOR A SHOW. IT GAVE ALL THE KIDS WHO WEREN'T INVITED TO HIGH SCHOOL PARTIES SOMETHING TO DO, TO BRAG ABOUT + GET STOKED ON. IT WAS OUR FOOTBALL GAME. FROM THERE WE MET PEOPLE FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE BAY + LEARNED A LOT MORE ABOUT D.I.Y. MUSIC, PERSPECTIVES, IDEAS, RESOURCES ETC.

ALEX: THE D.I.Y. COMMUNITY HAS ALWAYS INCLUDED SOME OF MY FAVORITE MOST HELPFUL + SELFLESS PEOPLE. THERE ARE SELFISH PPL TOO BUT THEY'RE MORE ABOUT "Y.D.I." - YOU DO IT.

MRR: THERE'S CURRENTLY A LITTLE PANDEMIC THING GOING DOWN. HOW DO U THINK IT MIGHT CHANGE THE D.I.Y. COMMUNITY?

ALEX: I'M NOT REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO SHOWS TILL THEY'RE BACK TO NORMAL. I'M COOL WAITING. I REALLY DIG THE CLOSENESS OF THE SCENES AROUND HERE + SEEING THE SAME NICE PEOPLE EVERY NOW AND THEN. I THINK EVERY BAND IS GOING TO SOUND DIFFERENT COMING OUT OF THIS. I'M EXCITED TO SEE WHAT EVERYBODY'S WORKING ON + HOW THEY'VE GROWN DURING THIS TIME. IT'S SCARY TO THINK OF WHAT VENUES WILL BE LEFT. I'M HOPING PEOPLE WILL COME TOGETHER EVEN MORE THAN BEFORE.

MRR: HOW'D U GET TOGETHER W/ MAXIMUM PELT (LABEL)?

ALEX: OUR BUDDY NIKHIL FROM BOTTLED UP INTRODUCED US WHEN WE WERE SHARING SOME DEMOS WE WERE WORKING ON FOR OUR RESPECTIVE PROJECTS. IAN FROM MAXIMUM PELT SEEMED TO DIG IT + ENDED UP BEING A REALLY NICE PERSON WHO SEEMED TO APPRECIATE WHAT WE WERE DOING.

MRR: WHAT'S NEXT FOR Y'ALL? I SAW THERE'S A NEW NOPES LP.

ALEX: NOT SURE IF THE BAND WILL PLAY LIVE AGAIN w/ EVERYONE IN DIFFERENT SPOTS, BUT I'M STILL WRITING + RECORDING. I'M PLAYING A LOT MORE PIANO THESE DAYS SO WE'LL SEE HOW THAT TRICKLES INTO THE NEXT ALBUM. I'M HOPING TO WORK WITH GABE + ERIS POST-PANDEMIC. WE DO HAVE A NEW NOPES ALBUM OUT IN JANUARY, 2021. WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON SINCE 2018 + RECORDED IN NOVEMBER 2019. WE CAN'T WAIT TO MEET UP AGAIN SOME DAY + MAKE NEW SONGS, + SEE WHAT WEIRD STUFF WE COME UP WITH.

RECORD REVIEWS!! (NOTE: WE ONLY WRITE ABOUT STUFF WE LIKE:))



NEUTRAL SHIRT - "DAISYWORLD" (LOST SOUND)

I'VE BEEN A FAN OF SAN DIEGO POPSTER MATTY + CO. SINCE THEY RELEASED A RAD EP. ON LOST SOUND SEVERAL YEARS BACK. THIS IS PERHAPS THE BEST SET OF SONGS SO FAR. THIS REMINDS ME OF ARIZONA DESERT-INDIE SUCH AS DINERS, DOSBRETH, YIPEE ETC. IT ROCKS TOO HARD TO COUNT AS BEDROOM POP, THO THE HUSHED VOC + CHILLY CHORUS-AFFECTED GUITAR AREN'T TOO FAR AFIELD. WE GET A FUN MIX OF SLOW-BURNERS LIKE OPENER "BREATHE IN" + "TENDER HEARTS", LEAVENED w/ SKITTERY INDIE POP ON "SALTON SEA" + "I TRULY BELIEVE IN YOU". FUN FACT, AS I WRITE THIS I'D BE GIGGING A GIG w/ THIS BAND TODAY IF IT WEREN'T FOR COVID.

(15)

DINGED UP - "MUCHO DOLOR"
(SNAPPY LITTLE NUMBERS)
GOT THIS IN THE MAIL FROM THE V
COOL LABEL FOLKS + HELLA STOKED ON IT.
IT'S A SOLO-RECORDED, FULL-BAND,
WEIRDO FUZZY POP THING THAT SHOULD
CONNECT w/ FANS OF A VARIETY OF
PUNK/DIY STYLES. THE ONLY BARRIER
TO ENTRY MAY BE JOE'S VOICE, WHICH
WAS NO PROBLEM FOR ME. JOE SHARES
SOME OF THE SAME MELODRAMATIC
TEXTURES AS SHELLHEAD OR SHELLSHAC,
ALSO FEELING A BIT OF THE CLEANER
IAN VOX FROM EMBRACE OR THE
QUIETER EUGAZI JAMS. THE MUSIC,
HOWEVER, TENDS TOWARD A SLACK
INDIE GUITAR ROCK THAT DOES THE
STOP/START THING A LA TOKS THAT KILL.
I TEND TO PREFER THE MORE ENER-
GETIC SONGS, WHICH OCCUR PRE-
DOMINANTLY TOWARDS THE TOP.
I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO SEE
THESE SONGS PERFORMED LIVE,
IDEALLY IN A ROOM FULL OF FOLKS
SINGING + BOPPING AROUND.

SOURCE MATERIAL -

"CONSTANT SUNRISE"
(SLANG CHURCH)
WHEN COLIN FROM PDX'S SNOW
ROLLER DECLARED A BREAK FROM
THE INDIE ROCK GRIND, I WAS
BUMMED. NOW, NO LONGER
BUMMED. THIS PROJECT IS A BIT
LOOSER, w/o THE DOWN-TUNED
HEAVINESS. COLIN'S LETS THE VOX
LOOSE IN A CAPN JAZZ/KANSELLA-
ISH MANNER TO ENDEARING EFFECT.
OPENER "CRAB SHOOT" (LOL) IS A
GREAT, PROPULSIVE ROCKER w/
SHUFFLING 90s INDIE DRUMS +
A CLASSIC ROCK LEAD GUITAR. MY
FAVORITE IS "TENDERNESS", A
MID-TEMPO EMO JAM THAT TURNS
ON A LUNGFISH/SEAM REPE-
TITIVE, HYPNOTIC RIFF. GOOD, GOOD
ALBUM.

DUSTY MILLER"EMPATHY"

(SOLIDARITY CLUB/SMALL BEAR)

ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF MY 2019 WAS PLAYING w/ THIS, THE FIRST INTERGENERATIONAL BAND I'VE SHARED A BILL WITH. ALSO, THEY'RE VERY GOOD. JIM RIVAS, DRUMMER OF THE LEGENDARY ROCKETSHIP, + HIS 19-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER EDEN (ALONG WITH TEENAGE FRIENDS) COME OUT OF THE GATE STRONG w/ A PRISTINE DREAMPOP SOUND. CHIMING GUITARS IN THE MANNER OF THE SUNDAYS, JIM'S TASTEFUL DRUMWORK, + EDEN'S REEDY, CONFIDENT VOCALS COMBINE TO FORM A MODERN TAKE ON A CLASSIC INDIEPOP SOUND. INCLUDES A COOL COVER OF COCTEAU TWINS' "BLUEBEARD".

THE VERY MOST"NEEDS HELP"

(LOST SOUND)

BOISE'S JEREMY JENSEN HAS BEEN MAKING CRISP, CLEVER INDIEPOP FOR SEVERAL YEARS. HERE THE HIGHLY-REGARDED SONGWRITER IS JOINED BY A SUCCESSION OF GUEST VOCALISTS WHO BREATHE ADDITIONAL LIFE INTO THESE PURE POP TUNES. EXPERTLY PLAYED, COOL LYRICS, AWESOME SONG TITLES.

ZEPHOR - "DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT"

(SNAPPY LITTLE NUMBERS)

ABOVE ALL THIS IS THE SOUND OF THREE FRIENDS SHARING THEIR LOVE OF HONEST 2000s NO IDEA-STYLE PUNK. IT'S A PASSION PROJECT IN AN IDIOM THAT LIVES OR DIES ON PASSION. BEERY, WOUNDED, MID-TEMPO OCTAVE-HEAVY BIG-SHOULDERED ROCK THAT'D BE PERFECT FOR A GIG w/ IRON CHIC OR ADULT MAGIC.

CAVE BABIES - "EMOTIONAL INTIMACY"
(LOST SOUNDS)

JOSHUA REDMAN IS A TREASURE. THIS "WHISPER PUNK" ALBUM IS GUARANTEED TO MAKE U FEEL LOTS OF STUFF. IT'S AN ALBUM OF SHORT ACOUSTIC POP GEMS THAT WOULD BE "FOLK PUNK" IF IT WASN'T SO GREAT. JOSH'S WORDS ARE UNADORNED, CAREFULLY CHOSEN + EMINENTLY RELATABLE.

SOAR - "SOFT DIAL TONE"
(LOST SOUND)

SF'S OUTSTANDING INDIEPOP QUARTET CALLED IT A DAY BUT HAVE GRACED US WITH A 2ND FULL-LENGTH. THE REAL JOY WITH THIS BAND REMAINS THEIR 4-PART HARMONIES. THE VARYING TAMBRES OF THEIR VOICES EBB + FLOW OVER THE OPEN-CHORD STRUMS + MID-TEMPO YET PROPULSIVE DRUMS.

BIG BABY - "FLIZZY COLA"
(JIGSAN)

REALLY SOLID + CATCHY INDIEPOP FROM RVA. PLENTY OF ENERGY, LOTS OF JANGLE, A BIT OF CRUNCH FROM TIME TO TIME. "CHERRY COKE" + MORE SPORT SOME WELL-REFINED HOOKS.

A CERTAIN SMILE - "BAE"
(JIGSAW)

PDX-VIA-PHILLY INDIEPOP VETS' THREE-SONG SINGLE BUILDS ON 2017's "FITS + STARTS" WITH TWO UP-TEMPO JAMS, INCLUDING A REALLY NICE OCTAVE LEAD ON "CHERRY BOMB", + AN ACOUSTIC SLOW TUNE TO CLOSE IT OUT. WELL-PLAYED, WELL-RECORDED + WELL-VERSED IN THE IDIOM.

FRIEND OF MY YOUTH - "TELLING"
(SECRET PENNIES/SALINAS)
THIS ALBUM BLEW ME AWAY. INDIANA
FROM CORVALLIS OR IS AMAZING AT
SOLO GIGS BUT THIS IS ANOTHER
LEVEL. BRINGS ME BACK TO THE
MID-90s D.I.Y. WORLD I.E. GOOD
LUCK, LEMURIA, DELAY ETC. GREAT
SONGS, TREMENDOUS MUSICIANSHIP,
GREAT ART. JUST VERY SPECIAL.

NASTY HABIT - "SLOW BURN"
(SELF-RELEASED I THINK?)

MY BUDDY RYAN FROM COLUMBUS
(MEMBER OF SIDEKICKS) HAS BEEN
DOING THIS "AMERICANA FOR
POTHEADS" BAND ON AND OFF
FOR YEARS A FEW OF THESE HAVE
BEEN ONLINE FOR A WHILE BUT
IT'S GREAT TO HAVE AN ENTIRE
ALBUM. JANGLY, SOMEWHAT
THANGY GUITAR INDIE WITH A
SINGER WHO REMINDS ME OF
THE SOFTEST IAN MACKAYE VOX.

YUPS - "MAN ON THE MOON MAN
(BANANA) ON THE MOON"
THESE SF FOLKS ARE AMONG THE
WEST COAST D.I.Y. WORLD'S BEST
LITTLE SECRETS. WHILE THEIR MAIN
PROJECT HOPES DOES ANGRY
SAMOANS OR EVEN JESUS LIZARD-
INSPIRED NOISE ROCK, + MEH
(ANOTHER CONFIGURATION) TACKLES
GBV-STYLE LO-FI, THIS TAPE
IS SPEEDY, POPPY, JANGLY, HOOKY
+ PACKED W/ GUITAR HEROICS.
YEEHAW JUNCTION "BELIEVER"
(SELF-RELEASED)

NATE + SHAVLA FROM RVA ARE
MY FAVORITE BAND RN. SYNTHY
INDIEPOP WITH OUTSTANDING
VOCALS + LYRICS. SOME SLOW
BURNERS, SOME ROCKERS.
AMAZING PACKAGING.
(TAPE VERSION)

OLIVIA'S WORLD - "S/T"

(LOST SOUND)

HERE'S A NICE LITTLE INDIEPOP EP WITH AN INTERESTING MELODIC TAKE THAT REMINDS ME OF BRILLIANT COLORS AT TIMES + FEATURES ROSE MELBERG ON DRUMS. LICA'S MELODIES ARE COOL + DELIVERED CONFIDENTLY.

VACATION - "ZEN QUALITY SEED CRYSTAL"

(SALINAS)

ONE OF THE BEST PUNK BANDS OF THE 2010s, CINCINNATIS (LOL) LOCAL FAVES HAVE NEVER BEEN AFRAID TO GET WEIRD, NOR HAVE THEY SHIED AWAY FROM 90s LO-FI INDIE. THIS ALBUM SEEKS THEM LEAN INTO THE GBV / SHRIMPER THING WITH POWERFUL RESULTS. GUITAR-VOX JAM "SHELLED PACANS" IS A PERFECT POP SONG WHILE "CAPITAL DRIVE" WILL BE A LIVE FAVORITE.

NOTCHES - "NEW KINDA LOVE"

(DEAD BROKE (SALINAS))

THESE ARE MY TOURING BESTIES + ONE OF MY FAVORITE BANDS + THIS BLOWS THEIR PREVIOUS WORK OUT OF THE WATER. SIMPLY PUT, THIS IS ONE OF BEST CRUNCHY INDIE PUNK ALBUMS EVER. THE RATIO OF DANDO / TENEMENT CONTINUES TO TILT TOWARD THE FORMER (ESPECIALLY ON SOME EZRA-PENNED TUNES LIKE "ROOM UPSTAIRS" + "FEVER DREAM") WHICH SUITS ME JUST FINE. EZRA'S VOX ARE SO DAMN SILKY, w/ JUST A HINT OF DRAWL. ZAC'S SONGS ARE PERHAPS A BIT ANGRIER(!) + HAVE MORE LITTLE INSTRUMENTAL PARTS THAT ROCK HARD. HIS VOX ARE BRIGHT + FULL OF NERVOUS ENERGY. THIS IS A TRULY COHESIVE GROUP OF MUSICIANS THAT KNOW THEIR SOUND + EXECUTE WONDERFULLY. DANTE'S DRUMMING IS HARD-HITTING + PRECISE + I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THEM PLAY AGAIN.

FREEZING COLD - "GLIMMER" (SALINAS)

BEEN STOKED FOR THIS SINCE THE DEMO DROPPED IN 2017, + IT SURE DELIVERS THE GOODS. THE BAND INCLUDES SOME OF THE MORE CELEBRATED NYC INDIE/EMO/PUCK MUSICIANS, INCLUDING FOLKS FROM LITTLE LUNES, AVE NAKD, BRIDGE + TUNNEL ETC., + WHILE THE LP SHOWS THE INFLUENCE OF THAT SCENE, THERE'S A VIBE OF RESTRAINT + MINIMALISM. ICY GUITAR TONE, SINGLE-NOTE RIFFS + ROCK-SOLID RHYTHM SECTION LENDS AN ALMOST POSTPUNK FLAVOR, AS DOES JEFF'S CHILL VOX STYLE + IMPRESSIONISTIC "POLITICAL" LYRICAL CONTENT. "GLIMMER" IS FRONT-LOADED WITH ROCKERS, + GETS A BIT SOFTER + SLOWER AS IT GOES ON. I PREFER THE FORMER BUT IT'S ALL HIGH-QUALITY STUFF.

PIGTAILS

"S/T" (LUNG)

THESE YOUNGISH OLYMPIA FOLKS ARE PICKING UP THE D.I.Y. BANNER + MUCH OF THE CIG-BURNING SLACK, IN ADDITION TO PRODUCING SOME VERY COZY ROOTSY/FOLKY INDIE ROCK. LAURIE + JACK TAKE TURNS PENNING + SINGING WARM, COMFORTING TUNES WIPLenty OF NICE TEXTURES + MATURE PLAYING.

COLD SWEATS

"DEMO" (SELF-RELEASED)

WONDERFUL NEW POWERPOP TRIO FEATURING MY BESTIE LILY (BAD SLEEP, SQUILL) + LOCAL HEAVY MUSIC VETS. IT'S GARAGY, PACKED WITH HOSHT GUITAR LICKS + YELPED VOCALS ABOUT LOVE + BEING A TEEN. OUTSTANDING RECORDING FOR THIS KINDA SOUND, TIMMY + BRITTLE LIKE A COLLEGE RADIO STATION ON A TRANSISTOR RADIO.

INVISIBLE RAYS - "UP + LEAVE"
 (SELF-RELEASED) B/W "COMING ARROWS"
 PLAYED w/ THIS MASSACHUSETTS
 JANGLEPOP OUTFIT ON TOUR EARLIER
 THIS YEAR + WAS V IMPRESSED
 w/ SAM's SONGWRITING + THE BAND'S
 COHESION. THESE TWO SONGS THEIR
 DEBUT, SHOW THE CARE THAT WENT
 INTO THEIR PROCESS. CLASSIC CHORD
 PROGRESSIONS, COOL MELODIES/
 HARMONIES. MORE PLEASE.

THE CRIMPS - "SPLIT w/
CRISIS ACTORS"
 THIS BAND ALSO PLAYED THE GIG
 MENTIONED ABOVE T. IT WAS A GOOD
 GIG. THIS IS UP-TEMPO SYNTH-
 PUNK w/ RIDICULOUSLY CATCHY
 VOCALS. REMINDS ME OF
JAPANTHER, DIGITAL LEATHER,
MIND SPIDERS ETC. OH ALSO
CRISIS ACTORS IS A GREAT, KINDA
 WEIRD, D.I.Y. PUNK BAND.

LAIKA'S ORBIT - "CHOOSEN NO- DNEs" (DEAD BROKE)

AFTER DROPPING AN AMAZING DEBUT
 LP IN 2015 (DANG THAT'S WILD),
 PLAYING A FLURRY OF GIGS + FESTS +
 TOURS THESE MASSACHUSETTS POWER-
 POPSTERS SEEMINGLY CALLED IT
 A DAY. NOT SO! THIS ONE BUILDS
 ON THAT FOUNDATION + SURPASSES
 IT IN MANY WAYS. SHANE'S CLEAN
 VOCALS ARE EVEN SWEETER, THE
 TUNES ARE MORE HOOK-LADEN,
 THE BAND IS TIGHTER + SOLOS
 ABOUND. I COULD SEE THIS ALBUM
 APPEALING TO ALL KINDS OF FOLKS,
 FROM THEIR D.I.Y. COMMUNITY
 TO POP NERDS + EVEN RADIO
 ROCK FANS. KIDS THAT WATCH
SHEER MAG AT COACHELLA.
 "THINGS MIGHT NOT BE OK" IS
 ABOUT AS GOOD AS THIS STUFF
 GETS.

22

THE BEDROOMS - "PASSIVE VIEWING"
(DOMESTIC DEPARTURE)

I AM A FAN OF POST PUNK, BUT DON'T HAVE AS DEEP A KNOWLEDGE OF THE IDIOM AS SOME. LUCKILY, ERIKA FROM PDX's COLLATE STARTED A NEW LABEL + KNOWS THE DEAL. THIS LP IS AWESOME. PROPELLIVE DRUMS, INSISTENT BASS PRESSURE + DARKLY JANGLING GUITARS PROVIDE A CANVAS FOR THE DISTINCTIVE VOCAL APPROACH REMINISCENT OF THE NEW-ROMANTIC STYLE. THE VOC ARE SIMULTANEOUSLY BOLDLY SELF-ASSURED + WAVEY/VULNERABLE. OUTSTANDING ART BY DRUMMER (+ COLLATE MEMBER) JACYN.

ADULT MAGIC - "S/T"

(DEAD BROKE)

I REALLY, REALLY APPRECIATE THAT A LARGE CHUNK OF THE D.I.Y. PUNK TEAM AGREES THAT POST-WESTERBERG, RADIO-FRIENDLY GUITAR ROCK IS THE SHIT. THIS TRIO OF LONG ISLAND/BROOKLYN QUEENS LIFERS FILTER GOD SOO DOLLS + GIN BLOSSOMS THRU THE PRISM OF THEIR LOCAL POPPY-PUNK TRADITION. THROW IN A BIT OF REGION ROCK + THREE DISTINCT SINGERS/SONGWRITERS + THIS ALBUM ENDS UP BECOMING QUITE SPECIAL. IT'S LIKE A GOOD + LIKABLE BEACH SLANG, MINUS ALL THE CHEEZ.

SEND MUSIC TO... JOSHUA HOEV
1903 SE 11TH AVE. OLYMPIA WA! :::::

BUD TAPES

IS AN EXCELLENT NEW-ish D.I.Y. LABEL FROM PORTLAND. WE ASKED EMIT MARTIN (THEY/ THEM) ABOUT THE LABEL.

“I STARTED BUD TAPES INITIALLY TO PUT OUT MY FIRST TAPE AS WORLD RECORD WINNER. I HAD SENT IT AROUND TO LABELS I ADMIRE + NOTHING PANNED OUT. I RECEIVED A VERY KIND REJECTION EMAIL FROM KENNETH @ OFF TEMPO (WHO I'D IDOLIZED GROWING UP IN SEATTLE) PRETTY MUCH TELLING ME HIS LABEL WAS FAKE + THAT I SHOULD JUST START MY OWN, WHICH IS NOW THE RESPONSE I GIVE WHEN I'M TOO BUSY TO HELP “FOLKS OUT”).

“LOST SOUND TAPES WAS A BIG INFLUENCE. JON MANNING IS AN AWESOME CURATOR OF INDIEPOP. + PUTS OUT STUFF JUST CUZ HE LIKES IT + THE FOLKS WHO MADE IT. FEEDING TUBE FROM MASSACHUSETTS OPENED MY EYES TO THE KINDS OF SOUNDS THAT CAN BE ON A RECORD. GOOD CHEER IS SORT OF AN ANTI-INFLUENCE. THEY IMPLDED + LEFT A HOLE WHICH PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SAYING WE'RE STARTING TO FILL. I HOPE TO LEARN FROM THEIR MISTAKES BY BEING INCLUSIVE, TRANSPARENT, + ACTING AS SUPPORT SYSTEM RATHER THAN TASTEMAKER.”

BUD TAPES 2020 RELEASES!

(NOTE THERE ARE MORE I COULDN'T FIT SORRY!)

SURCARILITA - "HOLINIS"

"SWEET LD-FI FOLK/BEDROOM POP FROM TIJUANA. SONGWRITING + PRODUCTION IS UNLIKE ANYTHING I'VE EVER HEARD."

TOUGH BOY - "SWEETNESS"

"POP MUSIC FROM PDX LEGEND BRIAN SEIDMAN w/ COLLABS FROM MEMBERS OF FOX ACADEMY, ANCIENT POOLS, SCONE, CANARY ROOM"

SMILING STRANGE - "SILO"

"LD-FI HELVETIA-ESQUE SLOWCORE FROM KYLE FROM YELLOW ROOM"

HELENS - "POLLEN/FLORA"

"TWO EP'S FROM LONGTIME SHREDDERS PLAYING SHOEGAZE, FAITHFUL TO THE SOURCE MATERIAL + STILL PUSHES THE ENVELOPE"

BABYTOOTH - "THAT AWAY"

"INDIE FOLK ROCK w/ INCREIBLE MELODIES" LYRICS BY ISABEL ZACHARIA"

ENIMEM - "FOOTBALL"

"JUST-FOR-FUN PROJECT FROM AARON FROM VIPEE. SHOEGAZE, POWERPOP, HONKY TONK, IT'S ALL HERE"

JOSH'S BEST OF 2020!

- ① DIGITAL LEATHER.
- ② SWEEPING PROMISES.
- ③ BILLY NOMATES.
- ④ "STRUM + THRUM" BOX.
- ⑤ JETSTREAM PONY.
- ⑥ BOVRACER.
- ⑦ CLOSE LOBSTERS.
- ⑧ YIPEE!
- ⑨ MEH.
- ⑩ THE BEDROOMS.

91 / 100